

CTRad bulletin

CTRad proposals guidance meeting, November 2013

- CTRad members met in Liverpool for the 7th proposals guidance meeting, to review thirteen radiotherapy proposal ideas. This meeting followed on from another successful NCRI Cancer Conference.
- Neil Burnet, Chair of CTRad, gave an overview of CTRad's recent work. He gave a brief summary of the 114 proposals reviewed by CTRad since its launch, illustrating the diversity of disease sites and trial phases of the proposals that came through.
- Rhoswyn Walker and Alex Pemberton of the Medical Research Council (MRC) presented on the MRC's focus of activities and funding opportunities including translational research grants, in particular pointing to the recently updated Radiation Oncology and Biology Highlight Notice (www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Highlightnotices/RadiationOncologyandBiology/MRC006743). Researchers are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant MRC programme manager ahead of submitting a proposal.
- Don Jones (WS1) gave an overview of the Biomarker Support Network (www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/res/biomarker/). This was launched to help researchers develop strong biomarker-based translational components of radiotherapy trials, and complements the RADCAS service (www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/res/radcas/) which provides specialist advice on the whole radiotherapy trial development process.
- The next proposals guidance meeting will be on **21 May 2014** in London. There will be a call for proposal ideas in Spring 2014; more details will be available on the CTRad website in due course (www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/res/guidance/).

Radiographers' think tank meeting, September 2013

- The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) and CTRad organised an academic radiographers' think tank meeting in September, bringing together a professional community to identify research priorities, recognise unmet needs and plan emerging research areas for therapeutic radiographers.
- Twenty centres were well represented by research radiographers, clinical trials radiographers, radiotherapy service managers, professional body representatives, physicists, clinicians and patient representatives. All participating centres completed a SWOT analysis of their current situation; subsequently five centres were invited to present to the audience on the day (Belfast; Cheltenham; Guy's and St Thomas'; Leeds; Norfolk and Norwich).



- Presentations highlighted research aims and roles from a clinician's, physicist's and radiographer's perspective. The results from the recent SCoR research capacity survey provided a background to current radiographer research activity and possible research funding streams; methods of collaboration with higher education institutes were also explored.
- Delegates were asked to rank barriers to radiographers' research, and the top two barriers - lack of protected research time and insufficient external funding - emerged as the same as those ranked by the physicists' think tank in 2011.
- An interactive afternoon session saw delegates proactively discuss five questions such as new research ideas and opportunities for collaboration, with many good ideas and great enthusiasm.
- Participants reported that they felt encouraged and inspired; they were asked to complete a postcard detailing what they would like to achieve locally and the SCoR will be following up with centres to provide further support.

Radiotherapy-Drug Combinations Consortium (RTDCC) project manager appointed

- CTRad welcomes Dr Mike Rogers who has been appointed project manager for the Radiotherapy-Drug Combinations Consortium (RTDCC), a joint venture between CTRad and the CR-UK Drug Development Office. Mike's first task will be to consolidate the pre-clinical expertise available around CTRad and the wider community – stay tuned for an email from the Consortium asking about expertise your laboratory can offer. He will thereafter be working with researchers to establish collaborative networks, to drive more research in partnership with industry.

Forthcoming meetings

- **Clinical Trials Workshop, 14 October 2014:** Building on successes from the previous two workshops, another clinical trials workshop will be organised in conjunction with the Royal College of Radiologists in London. This workshop aims to educate early investigators about developing clinical trials from concept to delivery. Registration details will be available in mid-2014.

CPD points

Most of our workshops and meetings are now CPD-accredited – don't forget to collect your certificate after each meeting.

Contact us

If you have any feedback, news you want to share, or want to find out more about topics mentioned above, please contact the CTRad Secretariat (CTRad@ncri.org.uk). You can also browse the CTRad web pages www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad for more information and future dates of CTRad events.